

Listening with Light proves Fosar future shines bright

Submitted by: 2thefore

Tuesday, 12 May 2009

- Fibre-optic sensing technology development project demonstrates to oil companies how the inclusion of Fosar in their reservoir management strategies can enable increased production, greater reserves and lower operating costs and risk -

Stingray Geophysical Limited – www.stingraygeo.com - has announced the successful completion of the 30-month “Listening with Light®” stage-gate development project to commercialise its unique fibre-optic sensing technology for Permanent Seismic Reservoir Monitoring. With the support of funding from the Technology Strategy Board and carried out jointly with manufacturing partner, Atlas Elektronik UK Limited, the qualification test programme culminated in the successful demonstration of Stingray’s Fosar® system to oil companies in offshore Norway sea trials at the end of 2008.

The Fosar system achieved all of the technology development programme’s objectives in terms of setting the system design, delivering high fidelity sensor performance comparable with other conventional seismic systems, and demonstrating to oil companies on a representative sized system the specific benefits of highly repeatable, time-lapse or 4D seismic data. Such benefits include the optimisation of hydrocarbon recovery schemes through well placement and the identification of untapped reserves.

Commenting on the project completion, Annette Cutler, Monitoring Officer for the Technology Strategy Board, said: “The Technology Strategy Board process worked well for all parties. In addition to the formation of an excellent working relationship between Stingray and Atlas, the project was well run by Stingray with safety in-built in the work ethic. Their exceptional team has been highly professional throughout. With a ground-breaking technology that is quicker, smarter and cheaper than its current competitors, Stingray should be able to develop as a first class technology provider to the oil industry.”

Stingray’s Fosar system consists of a passive, fully fibre-optic array of Optical Sensor Units (OSU’s) connected by armoured fibre-optic cable. Requiring minimal lightweight connections to surface recording equipment, the compact interrogation unit receives and decodes the returning signals to provide full-wave seismic imaging data for detailed reservoir characterisation and monitoring. Fosar’s highly scalable, flexible architecture and substantial sensor count per fibre facilitate safe and easy deployment of large seabed sensor arrays. With a 20 year design life for harsh subsea environments, the reliability and robustness of fibre-optic systems cannot be matched by electrical alternatives.

Recognising the “Listening with Light” project’s contribution to the commercial realisation of the Fosar system, Stingray’s CEO, Martin Bett said: “The Technology Strategy Board funding has been vital, enabling us to leverage further industry investment and stretching our R&D budget to meet the requirements of developing such advanced technology to address the needs of oil and gas companies. Oil companies have been able to witness first-hand how the inclusion of Fosar in their reservoir management strategies can enable increased production, greater reserves and lower operating costs and risk.”

Bob Waters, Managing Director of Atlas Elektronik UK Limited, said: “Being involved in advancing this technology has helped us to enhance our skills base and manufacturing facility. We can now build

scalable sensor systems that consistently meet the specification and test criteria, reinforcing our position as an internationally recognised expert in this area as part of the Stingray team.”

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Picture Caption: Deployment of Stingray's Fosar® seabed seismic system

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NOTES FOR EDITORS:

About Stingray Geophysical Limited

Stingray's sole focus is providing the most advanced permanently installed reservoir monitoring solutions to the global oil and gas industry. Founded in March 2006 to commercialise a unique fibre-optic sensing technology – now called Fosar® - for Permanent Reservoir Monitoring (PRM), Stingray enables oil and gas companies to accelerate production and increase their reserves while reducing cost and risk through improved reservoir management strategies.

The core technology was originally developed for anti-submarine warfare and security purposes by the UK's defence research laboratories and is now being exploited for advanced fibre-optic oil and gas seismic sensing applications by Stingray under exclusive licence. Together with its partners – QinetiQ, Atlas Elektronik UK, Bergen Oilfield Services and Sensoptics - Stingray offers a complete solution from planning through to processing and answer products.

“Stingray”, “Fosar” and “Listening with light” are registered trademarks of Stingray Geophysical Limited.

About Atlas Elektronik

Atlas Elektronik (UK) Limited is Stingray's array engineering and manufacturing partner. With almost 20 years' experience in manufacturing fibre-optic systems for harsh environments and a 15,000 m2 manufacturing facility in Newport, South Wales, Atlas Elektronik brings world-leading capability and resources to Stingray's team. The facility includes cable manufacturing lines, sensor winding machines and extensive integration and testing facilities (including large scale ovens, pressure chambers and tension rigs).

Atlas Elektronik is at the forefront of sub-sea fibre optic sensing, communications and cable handling systems for the defence, communications and offshore oil industry and has delivered optical and electrical systems globally. Atlas Elektronik is a joint venture between EADS and ThyssenKrupp.

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About The Technology Strategy Board

The Technology Strategy Board is a business-led executive non-departmental public body, established by the government. Its role is to promote and support research into, and development and exploitation of, technology and innovation for the benefit of UK business, in order to increase economic growth and improve the quality of life. It is sponsored by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS).

For further information: please visit www.innovateuk.org.